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NPDES Phase II Storm Water Program

BACKGROUND

The Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 established the NPDES storm water program. The act called for implementation in two phases, and Phase I addressed the most significant sources of pollution in storm water runoff. Phase II addresses other sources to protect water quality. The Phase II regulations were published in the December 8, 1999, Federal Register.

SMALL CONSTRUCTION SITES

Beginning on March 10, 2003, construction sites that disturb one acre or more are required to have coverage under the NPDES general permit for storm water discharges from construction site activities.

SMALL MUNICIPALITIES

Municipalities under 100,000 population will no longer be exempt from the construction site storm water requirements and the industrial storm water requirements effective March 10, 2003.

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS

Municipalities located in urban areas as defined by the Census Bureau are required to obtain NPDES permit coverage for discharges from their municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). Permit applications are required to be submitted to the Illinois EPA by March 10, 2003. There are approximately 500 municipalities, counties, and townships in Illinois that are required to obtain coverage based on the 1990 census. Additional municipalities will be required to obtain coverage based on the urban area maps resulting from the 2000 census.

PROGRAM STATUS

The Division of Water Pollution Control Permit Section has drafted an NPDES general permit for MS4s. The permit was sent out to the MS4 Permit Advisory Committee on February 13, 2002. After receiving comments from the committee and meeting with the committee, the Permit Section will send the permit out to public notice. The Phase II regulations require the states to have the MS4 permits issued by December 9, 2002.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To apply for coverage under the MS4 permit, municipalities need to submit a completed and signed Notice of Intent form. In addition to the Notice of Intent, the application must include the best management practices to be used and measurable goals for each best management practice, a timetable for implementation, identification of the person or persons responsible for implementation, and identification of any qualifying local program.

CONTACT

For further information on the NPDES Phase II Storm Water Program, please contact the Permit Section, Division of Water Pollution Control, at 217/782-0610.

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